

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled).

2. (cancelled).

3. (cancelled).

4. (cancelled).

5. (cancelled).

6. (cancelled).

7. (cancelled).

8. (previously amended) A method for transferring an asynchronous transfer mode call, wherein a first asynchronous transfer mode call is established between a first party and a second party and a second asynchronous transfer mode call is established between the second party and a third party, wherein the first asynchronous transfer mode call includes a plurality of segments that are coupled to a plurality of asynchronous transfer mode switches to provide a virtual connection, and wherein the second asynchronous transfer mode call includes a plurality of segments that are coupled to a plurality of asynchronous transfer mode switches to provide a virtual connection, the method comprising the steps of:

an asynchronous transfer mode switch coupled to the second party receiving a message to transfer the first asynchronous transfer mode call to the second asynchronous transfer mode call to connect the first party and the third party;

the asynchronous transfer mode switch connecting a first segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call to a first segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call;

the asynchronous transfer mode switch releasing a second segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the asynchronous transfer mode switch to the second party;

the asynchronous transfer mode switch releasing a second segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the asynchronous transfer mode switch to the second party;

wherein the second party is coupled to the asynchronous transfer mode switch by a media access gateway and the media access gateway sends the message to the asynchronous transfer mode switch;

wherein the media access gateway is coupled to a call control entity that receives a request from the second party to transfer the first asynchronous transfer mode call to the second asynchronous transfer mode call and wherein the media access gateway generates the message under control of the call control entity in response to the request from the second party; and

wherein the media access gateway maintains control over a connection between the first segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call and the first segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call after the second segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call and the second segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call are released.

9. (currently amended) An apparatus for transferring an asynchronous transfer mode call, comprising:

an asynchronous transfer mode switch that receives a message to transfer a first asynchronous transfer mode call to a second asynchronous transfer mode call;

a media access gateway that is coupled to a caller and coupled to the

asynchronous transfer mode switch by an asynchronous transfer mode facility, wherein the media access gateway transmits the message to the asynchronous transfer mode switch;

a call control entity coupled to the media access gateway that:

receives a request from the caller to transfer the first asynchronous transfer mode call to the second asynchronous transfer mode call; and

directs the media access gateway to transmit the message to the asynchronous transfer mode switch;

wherein the message is received over ~~an~~ the asynchronous transfer mode facility that couples the first asynchronous transfer mode call or the second asynchronous transfer mode call to the asynchronous transfer mode switch;

wherein in response to the message, the asynchronous transfer mode switch connects a first segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call to a first segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call; and wherein the asynchronous transfer mode switch releases a second segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the asynchronous transfer mode switch to ~~a~~ the caller and releases a second segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call that extends from the asynchronous transfer mode switch to the caller; and

wherein the media access gateway maintains control over a connection between the first segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call and the first segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call after the second segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call and the second segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call are released.

10. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the message includes a first identifier for the first asynchronous transfer mode call and a

second identifier for the second asynchronous transfer mode call.

11. (previously amended) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the first identifier is a call reference for the first asynchronous transfer mode call and the second identifier is a call reference for the second asynchronous transfer mode call.

12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).

14. (cancelled).

15. (cancelled).

16. (new) The method of claim 8 wherein the message includes a first identifier for the first asynchronous transfer mode call and a second identifier for the second asynchronous transfer mode call.

17. (new) The method of claim 16 wherein the first identifier is a call reference for the first asynchronous transfer mode call and the second identifier is a call reference for the second asynchronous transfer mode call.

18. (new) The method of claim 8 wherein the media access gateway is a trunk access gateway or a line access gateway.

19. (new) The method of claim 8 wherein the message is received by the asynchronous transfer mode switch via the second segment of the first asynchronous transfer mode call or via the second segment of the second asynchronous transfer mode call.